Deaths due to starvation/malnutrition in tribal areas

†1969. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tribal dominated areas in the country are in the grip of severe starvation/malnutrition deaths;

(b) if so, the names of the most affected tribal areas alongwith the number of persons which have died; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the living conditions of these tribal people and progress report thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration has reported any starvation/malnutrition death.

(c) A quantity of 63.40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated by the Government of India to drought affected States during the year 2002-03 under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. 41.55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated so far during the current year under this scheme. Besides, a quantity of 2500 tonnes of foodgrains was allocated during 2002-03 for the Village Grain Banks Scheme in tribal areas. On their requests, a quantity of 14,900 tonnes of foodgrains has so far been allocated to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa under the said scheme for the year 2003-04.

Between 1996-97 and 2002-03, Rs. 19.43 crore were released for establishing 1195 village grain banks in tribal area. Primitive Tribal households are among the priority groups to be covered under the expanded Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during 2003-04.

Supply of rice under food for work programme

1970. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Food Corporation of India checks that millers may not recycle the rice intended for the food for work programme and supply the same to it under levy; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.